IT'S A COLLAB INVITATION FROM THE TOP VTUBER AO MOMOTOSE!

I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D GET TO WORK WITH THAT THREE-MILLION-SUB TITAN THIS SOON!

I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT BE THRILLED!

Tune In to the Midnight Heart

THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE...

...TO MAKE KIRINO'S PRESENCE KNOWN ALL OVER JAPAN!

A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL SURELY NOTICE KIRINO'S CHARM...

...WHEN THEY HEAR HER VOICE ON AO MOMOTOSE'S STREAM!

WH-WH-WH-WHAT DO WE DO, BUCKY?!

C-C-CALM DOWN, KIRINO!

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

HEH HEH HEH. YOU JUST CAN'T EVER TELL HOW IT'LL GO.

IT MUST BE BECAUSE YOUR HORROR GAME STREAM WAS WELL-RECEIVED.

I CAN'T JUST COLLAB WITH HER RIGHT AWAY!

READ THE INVITATION CLOSELY!

YOU'LL JUST BE ONE OUT OF MANY COM-PETITORS AT FIRST!

KANJI: GROUP

THE WINNER OF THE GROUP WILL BE able TO DIRECTLY INTERACT WITH HER.

THE PRELIMS ARE HELD IN FOUR-PERSON GROUPS.

E F G H I J K L M N O P

組 組 組 組 組 組 組 組 組 組 組 組

THE "AO CUP" IS A RACING GAME TOURNAMENT WITH OVER 50 VTUBERS PARTICIPATING.

ONLY THE TOP-RANKING ONE WILL GET TO CHALLENGE HER.

R-RIGHT! I'LL DO MY BEST!

MY ULTRA-BEST!

LET'S CONQUER THE PRELIMS AND GET YOU SOME SCREEN TIME WITH AO MOMOTOSE!

WE'RE GOING TO WOW EVEN THE TOP VTUBER!

NO YAMABUKI WOULD LET THIS OP-PORTUNITY SLIP AWAY!

DASH

ALL RIGHT! TIME FOR SOME SPECIAL TRAINING, THEN!

HEY, KIRINO, CAN YOU BRING YOUR OWN GAME CONSOLE?

UH... HELLO? EARTH TO KIRINO! IT'S ME, YAMABUKI.

BA-DUMP

No, wait! The Yamabuki household doesn't have any game console!!

Guess I'll buy one! Oh, but my wallet already took a beating because of the equipment!!

A FEW DAYS LATER

HEL-LAO! THE AO CUP IS FINALLY HERE!

EVERYONE WILL BE HAVING A HEATED BATTLE IN ORDER TO CHALLENGE ME ONE-ON-ONE!

BACKGROUND: AO CUP

NONE OF THE RACES ARE STAGED, SO BE SURE TO CHEER YOUR FAVES ON!

WE'VE GOT FAMILIAR FACES, AS WELL AS THE DARK-HORSE NEWBIES!

でぃ DA DUN けて DA DUN DA DUN けて DA DUN けてでぃけてでぃけてでぃけ DA

THIS GROUP...

FIRST OFF, WE HAVE THE *SPECIAL* GROUP A!

BA-DUMP

LET'S HOPE SHE DOESN'T GET GROUPED WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD AT THE GAME...

BA-DUMP

OKAY! I'M GOING TO ANNOUNCE THE GROUPS FOR THE PRELIMS!

I-IT'S FINALLY BEGUN!!

BA-DUMP

BLUE-BOX

WH-WHAAAT ?!!

DUUUN

...IS WHERE WE PUT ALL THE PROBLEM CHILDREN TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM EVERYBODY ELSE!

IKON SUMERAGI-CHAN DESERVES SPECIAL MENTION, THOUGH!

SHE'S A SUPER PROBLEMATIC VTUBER WHO *WET HERSELF* ON A STREAM!

BEEEP

...AND ARE SO PROBLEMATIC, THEY MIGHT JUST GET BANNED!

LICKY

THEY'VE BEEN BLACKLISTED BY OTHER AGENCIES...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS... DID SHE INVITE KIRINO AS A JOKE?!

I DIDN'T WET MYSELF!

ちゅう
I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS IF YOU WIN!
うぅ
EW, NO WAY, UGGO!
うぅH
PANT はぁ
PANT はぁ
PANT はぁ
PANT はぁ
JUST GIMME ALL YOUR SUBS! GA HA HA!
FIDDLE ホゾ
HEY, HEY! AM I GONNA GET A REWARD FOR WINNING?
FIDDLE ホゾ
GYA HA HA HA HA! SHE'S TURNED INTO AN UGGO, TOO!
うぅAAAH
THIS IS HER KISSING FACE?!
ARE YOU TAKING A LEAK RIGHT NOW, IKON-CHAN?
ちゅ MWAH
ちゅ MWAH
ちゅ MWAH
IKON-CHAN'S KISSING FACE IN THREE... TWO...
I'D RATHER GET A KISS FROM IKON-CHAN!
WHAAA ...?!

THIS ISN'T GOOD... THERE IS NOTHING FOR KIRINO TO GAIN FROM HANGING AROUND THIS VULGAR BUNCH!

SHE'S ALSO TOO DAUNTED TO EVEN RAISE HER VOICE!

YOU'RE FOOLING NO ONE! THIS IS A PRO PISSER MOVE, ISN'T IT?

THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN WORK WITH, SO THIS IS ABOUT ALL I CAN DO!

...!

JUST FOCUS ON WINNING!

KIRINO! FORGET ABOUT TRYING TO STAND OUT IN THE PRELIMS!

IT'S TIME TO SHOW THEM THE FRUIT OF ALL YOUR PRACTICE!

YOU CAN DO THIS!

THE RACE ENDED WITH IKON SUMERAGI IN FOURTH PLACE.

DED

GYA HA HA HA! I WON!

YOU JUST GOT LUCKY WITH THE ITEMS!

WOO

WOO

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. A COMPETITION IS JUST DECIDED BY LUCK SOMETIMES.

4TH

SORRY, BUCKY. I LOST...

GRIT

THE WINNERS WILL USE THIS WAITING ROOM...

UNFORTUNATELY, WE'LL HAVE TO BID FAREWELL TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO LOST!

LOOKS LIKE ALL THE RACES ARE OVER.

I SHOULD HAVE DONE MORE RESEARCH ON THE GAME...

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT SHE MIGHT RECEIVE THIS KIND OF TREATMENT!

NO, MY FAILINGS GO BEYOND JUST THAT.

HOW COULD A YAMABUKI LIKE ME LOSE?

NOT TO MENTION WE WERE **DEAD** LAST...

プル プル SHAKE SHAKE

WHAT AN UTTER DISGRACE I AM!

A YAMABUKI IS SUPPOSED TO BE NO LESS THAN PERFECT!

I'M SORRY, KIRINO.

TH...

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

ギリッ CLENCH

ヒロ

THEY WERE SO AWESOME!

IT'S AMAZING JUST HOW GOOD THEY ALL WERE AT THIS GAME!

ガールズビーム

DON'T YOU HATE HOW YOU WERE TREATED?

WAIT, KIRINO...

SURE, I WASN'T ABLE TO TALK TO AO-CHAN...

...BUT I'M STILL REALLY HAPPY I GOT TO BE PART OF HER EVENT!

YEAH, IT WAS FRUSTRATING THAT I COULDN'T GET BACK AT THEM...

...BUT EVEN SO...

IF WE KEEP WORKING HARD TOGETHER...

...IT WAS STILL NICE TO SEE OUR HARD WORK PAY OFF...

...AND GET US TO A BIG STAGE LIKE THIS.

...I'M SURE WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO EVEN FURTHER BEYOND!

3.
PUSH

2

CLENCH

3

THUMP

I GUESS I WAS A BIT TOO FIXATED ON THE RANKINGS.

HEH HEH HEH. I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT.

YUP!

WAS IT FUN?

SO...

WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU HAD FUN.

GOOD TO HEAR.

STILL ...

AO MOMOTOSE ALSO INVITED YOU AND THEN DIDN'T EVEN INTERACT WITH YOU! THAT WAS JUST RUDE!

SHE DIDN'T EVEN STAND ON THE SAME STAGE AS YOU!

THOSE JERKS...

MAD

...I CAN'T LET THOSE JERKS GET AWAY WITH THE CRAP THEY PUT YOU THROUGH!

HOW DARE THEY HURT MY KIRINO RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

AARGHHH

UH... UM...

RING RING TING TING

HEY, BUCKY, DID YOU JUST—

!

THERE WON'T BE SUCH A VAST DISTANCE BETWEEN US NEXT TIME!

INSTEAD, WE'LL BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HER!

LISTEN, KIRINO! WE'LL GET OUR REVENGE ON HER ONE DAY!

FWIP

NO, BUCKY! SHHH!

About the groups for the prelims!

LET ME HAVE A WORD WITH HER!

BWOAH

WHOAAA! AO-CHAN IS CALLING!

WHAT ?!

BEEP

HELLO?

...SO, I'M SORRY I WASN'T ABLE TO CALL YOU SOONER.

HELLO! THIS IS AO MOMOTOSE!

I'M ACTUALLY CONTACTING ALL THE PARTICI-PANTS...

I-I-I'M GREATLY HONORED THAT YOU EVEN CALLED ME!

OH NO, I-I-IT'S TOTALLY FINE!

THAT'S DEDICATION RIGHT THERE.

SHE'S TAKING THE TROUBLE TO CALL ALL THE PARTICIPANTS HERSELF?

...BUT THEY GOT A BIT CARRIED AWAY.

I PUT YOU IN THAT GROUP BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY...

HUH?

SORRY ABOUT TODAY.

I'LL REACH OUT TO YOU AGAIN FOR SURE.

I EXPECT YOU'LL...

I-I-I'D LOVE TO COLLAB WITH YOU AGAIN ONE DAY!

IT WASN'T REALLY A BIG DEAL FOR ME!

...BRING YOUR ASSISTANT ALONG AS WELL...

...JUST LIKE THIS TIME.

...IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE A CAPABLE BRAIN BEHIND YOU, ISN'T IT?

THE REASON YOU'VE BEEN GROWING IN POPULARITY LATELY...

WHAT ?!!

BUCKY! HOW DID SHE FIND OUT ABOUT YOU?!

NO WAY...

WAS SHE ABLE TO DETECT MY INVOLVEMENT JUST FROM THE CONTENT OF THE VIDEOS?!

I'D LOVE TO SPEAK TO YOUR ASSISTANT DIRECTLY NEXT TIME.

BOOP

SEE YOU THEN!

SO THIS IS...

...WHAT A TOP VTUBER IS CAPABLE OF...!

コールナイト ニホン

特注

大物ゲストの秘話収録

TITLE: CALL NIGHT NIHON. THIS IS LIKELY A REFERENCE TO "ALL NIGHT NIPPON," A JAPANESE RADIO PROGRAM.
CIRCLE: A MUST-HAVE FOR ALL CALL NIGHT NIHON FANS! INCLUDES BEHIND-THE-SCENES CONTENT WITH V.I.P. GUESTS.

THAT REALLY...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KIRINO?

...CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

STARE

I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO...

BUT ONE DAY, I'LL SURELY...

TOUCH

NO

ビク… TWITCH

MNGH

むぃ

むぅっ

?

JUST WHAT IS IT?

DID YOU JUST–

YOU... YOU'RE MAKING THAT FACE?!

THIS IS JUST MY "I WANNA USE THE BATHROOM" FACE.

STARE

NOPE.

MADE MY HEART SKIP A FEW BEATS.

WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER ...

BATH-ROOM ...?

HA!!

WOOSH

I'M SO SORRY! I LET MY ANGER GET THE BETTER OF ME...

...AND MADE A SLIP OF THE TONGUE !!!

YOU WERE LIKE, "HOW DARE THEY HURT *MY KIRINO!*"

!!

LIKE YOU SAID EARLIER...
TMP
ガラッ
I'M GONNA KEEP WORKING HARD.
...THE NEXT TIME...
...THERE WON'T BE SUCH A VAST DISTANCE BETWEEN US. IT'LL BE...

CHAPTER 25: DIRECT CONTACT